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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EAD, EGEN, MARR, MASS, SHUM

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS, AUGUST 1 - 8

1. INAUGURATION OF COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT - A LARGE AMERICAN DELEGATION HEADED BY SECRETARY OF TREASURY BLUMENTHAL ATTENDED THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT JULIO CESAR TURBAY AYALA IN BOGOTA ON AUGUST 7. ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY WAS AMONG THE DELEGATION AND USED THE OCCASION TO CONFER WITH COLOMBIAN LEADERS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONIES INCLUDING PRESIDENT PEREZ OF VENEZUELA, PRESIDENT POVEDA OF ECUADOR AND PRESIDENT PEREDA OF BOLIVIA. THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT TURBAY CULMINATES THE FIRST FULLY CONTESTED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN TWENTY YEARS, ENDING A PERIOD DURING WHICH THE PRESIDENCY WAS ALTERNATED BETWEEN THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES. THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT TURBAY IS THE FIRST PERSON FROM OUTSIDE THE
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TRADITIONAL OLIGARCHY TO ACHIEVE THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENCY MADE THE EVENT EVEN MORE NOTEWORTHY.

2. CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES - SENATE AND HOUSE CONFEREES WORKED OUT A COMPROMISE ON THE HANSEN LANGUAGE IN THE STATE AUTHORIZATION BILL WHICH WOULD HAVE PROHIBITED THE DEPARTMENT FROM USING ANY FUNDS, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY,

FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CANAL TREATIES. THE COMPROMISE

TACITLY RECOGNIZES THE SENATE'S AUTHORITY UNDER THE CONSTITUTION TO PASS A SELF-IMPLEMENTING TREATY, AND THEREFORE APPEARS TO GIVE THE DEPARTMENT THE LEEWAY IT NEEDS TO PLAN EFFECTIVELY FOR TREATY IMPLEMENTATION. A COMPROMISE WAS ALSO REACHED ON THE BARTLETT RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD HAVE CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT, INTER ALIA, TO WITHDRAW OUR INTEREST SECTION FROM CUBA. THE COMPROMISE CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT TO UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND SUBMIT A REPORT TO CONGRESS NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 29, 1979.

IN RESPONSE TO THE INDICTMENT OF THREE CHILEANS IN THE LETELIER/MOFFITCASE, CONGRESSMEN HARKIN AND MOFFIT INTRODUCED AN AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATION BILL WHICH WOULD HAVE SUSPENDED THE DELIVERY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY IN THE PIPE-LINE TO CHILE UNTIL THE THREE SUSPECTS ARE TURNED OVER TO THE U.S. THE HOUSE QUICKLY PASSED THIS AMENDMENT BY VOICE VOTE. IN VIEW OF THE ADVERSE EFFECTS WHICH THE AMENDMENT COULD HAVE ON THE EXTRADITION PROCESS, THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, PARTICULARLY JUSTICE, IMMEDIATELY INFORMED THE LEGISLATORS THAT THE PASSAGE OF SUCH AN AMENDMENT WHILE CHILE WAS COOPERATING IN THE CASE WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE. THE HOUSE THEN REVERSED ITSELF AND DROPPED THE AMENDMENT. A SIMILAR
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AMENDMENT BY CONGRESSMAN STARK TO SUSPEND ALL PIPE-LINE MILITARY ASSISTANCE SHIPMENTS TO CHILE ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS WAS ALSO DEFEATED.

THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO HOLD HEARINGS ON THE RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL I OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO, BEGINNING AUGUST 15. THE COMMITTEE STAFF BELIEVES THAT THERE IS SOME HOPE FOR RATIFICATION THIS SESSION.

3. IMET AND FMS FOR 1980 - ARA SUBMITTED ITS PROPOSED SUBMISSIONS FOR THE FISCAL 1980 SECURITY ASSISTANCE BUDGET ON AUGUST 8TH. PROGRAMS WERE SOUGHT FOR THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: BARBADOS-IMET; BAHAMAS-IMET; BOLIVIA-FMS CREDITS AND IMET; COLOMBIA-FMS CREDITS AND IMET; DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-FMS CREDITS AND IMET; ECUADOR-FMS CREDITS AND IMET; GUATEMALA-IMET; HAITI-FMS CREDITS AND IMET; HONDURAS FMS CREDITS AND IMET; PERU-FMS CREDITS AND IMET; VENEZUELA-IMET. IN ADDITION WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR A REGIONAL TRAINING FUND SPECIFICALLY TAILORED FOR TRAINING IN ARMS RESTRAINTS MEASURES AND TECHNIQUES, AND IN PEACE KEEPING ACTIVITIES. THE FIRST

SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
MEETING WILL BE HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 22ND. WE WILL KEEP
POSTS ADVISED OF PROGRESS.

4. ARA WEEKLY ISSUE: BRAZIL - THE CONTINUING PROCESS OF
POLITICAL CHANGE - IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS WE HAVE DISCUSSED
THE GENERALLY POSITIVE POLITICAL TRENDS IN LATIN AMERICA
WHERE A CONSIDERABLE OPENING UP OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS
IS OCCURRING. IN SOME COUNTRIES (BOLIVIA, ECUADOR) THE
RACE TO POPULAR ELECTIONS MAY BE OUTDISTANCING NECESSARY
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. IN OTHERS, MOVEMENT SEEMS SLOW
BUT MAY BE MORE SUSTAINABLE. THE LARGEST COUNTRY, BRAZIL,
IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE LATTER CASE.

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BRAZIL'S HISTORY SINCE THE TURN OF THE CENTURY HAS BEEN

CHARACTERIZED BY OCCASIONAL, LIMITED MILITARY INTERVENTIONS
WITH POWER QUICKLY RETURNED TO CIVILIAN HANDS. THE REVOLU-
TION OF 1964 MARKED A SHARP BREAK IN THIS TRADITION; THE
MILITARY DECIDED TO RETAIN POWER OVER A LONG PERIOD IN
ORDER TO BUILD DURABLE GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS. DURING
THE EARLY YEARS OF MILITARY RULE THERE WAS A DETERIORA-
TION IN THE OBSERVANCE OF INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE
SECURITY FORCES COMBATTED UNPRECEDENTED URBAN TERRORISM;
ALL FORMS OF POLITICAL EXPRESSION WERE STRICTLY CONTROLLED.

SINCE 1974 WHEN GEISEL BECAME PRESIDENT, THERE HAS
BEEN A DEFINITE TREND TOWARD LIBERALIZATION, ALBEIT WITH
UPS AND DOWNS. DURING THE PAST 18 MONTHS THAT TREND HAS
ACCELERATED, DESPITE THE TENSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE
TRANSITION TO HIS SUCCESSOR, GENERAL FIGEIREDO, WHO WILL
BE RUBBERSTAMPED IN NOVEMBER BY THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.
BRAZIL'S OPENING DOES NOT YET EXTEND TO DIRECT POPULAR
ELECTION OF ITS PRESIDENT. NEVERTHELESS, GEISEL'S RECORD
IS NOTEWORTHY:

-- THE INCIDENCE OF VIOLATIONS OF BASIC RIGHTS OF THE
PERSON, SUCH AS TORTURE AND POLITICAL ARREST, HAS DECREASED
MARKEDLY;

-- LESS USE HAS BEEN MADE OF EXCEPTIONAL POWERS TO DEPRIVE
INDIVIDUALS OF THEIR POLITICAL RIGHTS;

-- FREEDOM OF THE PRESS HAS BEEN GRANTED AND EVEN CONTROLS
ON ELECTRONIC MEDIA HAVE BEEN RELAXED;

-- GREATER TOLERANCE HAS BEEN SHOWN TO LABOR UNION
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ACTIVISM, THE FIRST STRIKES IN 14 YEARS OCCURRED RECENTLY WITH GOVERNMENTAL INTERVENTION;

A- ACTIVE;

--STUDENTS IN PROFESSIONAL GROUPS ARE ENGAGING OPENLY IN A GREATLY INCREASED LEVEL OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY; AND CHURCH GROUPS REMAIN HIGHLY ACTIVE;

--EVEN SOME OF THE INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL ELITES WHO HAVE BENEFITED MOST FROM THE REVOLUTION, ARE EXHIBITING PUBLIC SIGNS OF DESIRE FOR CHANGE;

--A PROGRAM OF POLITICAL REFORMS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED INCLUDING REINSTITUTION OF HABEAS CORPUS IN POLITICAL CASES, INCORPORATING SOME OF THE REVOLUTION'S EXCEPTIONAL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY INTO THE CONSTITUTION BUT SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL AND GUARANTEEING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THE JUDICIARY.

PRESIDENT GEISEL SO FAR HAS MAINTAINED THE GRADUAL PACE OF LIBERALIZATION BY SKILLFULLY BALANCING CONSERVATIVE AND LIBERALIZING FORCES. FIGEIREDO, AND MOST SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE DURING THE NEXT SIX-YEAR PRESIDENTIAL TERM, ARE COMMITTED TO CONTINUED LIBERALIZATION BUT WOULD PROBABLY BALK SHOULD THE PROCESS ACCELERATE GREATLY.

FINDING A STEADY PATH TOWARD GREATER POLITICAL PARTICIPATION WILL BE A DEMANDING POLITICAL TASK -- ONE THAT SOME FEAR FIGEIREDO MAY NOT BE UP TO. THE BRAZIL CASE ILLUSTRATES BOTH THE SUCCESS AND PROBLEMS OF GRADUAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION. THE POPULAR PRESURES FOR GREATER CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT DECISIONS MAY NOT BE CONTAINABLE IN AN ORDERLY WAY FOR ANOTHER SIX YEARS.

HOWEVER BRAZIL HAS A REMARKABLE PROPENSITY FOR SLOW,
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INDIRECT ACHIEVEMENT OF CONSENSUS ON DIFFICULT ISSUES. ITS STRONG SENSE OF NATIONALISM AND INWARD LOOKING THRUST FORWARD TO ITS OWN PERCEIVED DESTINY ARE AMONG KEY STABILIZING CHARACTERISTICS. IT IS A NATION BUILT UPON THE CONCEPT OF COMPROMISE AMONG A GREAT VARIETY OF COMPETING REGIONAL, ETHNIC AND SOCIAL FORCES. THUS, BRAZIL MAY YET PRODUCE A RETURN TO FULL POPULAR PARTICIPATION

POSSIBLY EVEN SOONER THAN THE GENERALS NOW ANTICIPATE. THE
KEY ISSUE FOR THE U.S. IS HOW TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO THE
FORCES OF CHANGE AND ENCOURAGE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE
UNDERLYING POPULAR INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT CAUSING A NATION-
ALIST AND TIGHTENING REACTION BY THE MILITARY. CHRISTOPHER

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